

GREAT STRUGGLE AROUND MUKDEN

Correspondent With Kuroki's
Army Tells Story of the
Japanese Victory.

THE RUSSIANS FOUGHT WELL

Stubbornly Defended Lines, But
Were Out-Generaled by
Oyama's Men.

(By Associated Press.)

HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL KUROKI'S ARMY, NEAR TIEHLING PASS, MANCHURIA, March 13.—The combination of the most efficient staff with the bravest and more intelligent soldiers to execute its plans decided the mastery of Manchuria. Again the Russians gave a splendid exhibition of the art of fighting. They were being surrounded by a force of 100,000 men, and they defended their lines, but in generalship and the employment of more modern methods, the Japanese surpassed them. Their retreat began in good order as that from Liao Yang, but when the soldiers realized that they were being surrounded by a force of 100,000 men, and that the Japanese were completely exhausted from ten days of fighting and exposure, they marched rapidly north in a thick sand storm and appeared across the Tieling Road beyond Mukden, was a decisive surprise. The Russians about Mukden had delayed their retreat two long. Only on the 8th Kuroki's army appeared to have realized the danger and warned foreign officers and correspondents to leave. Those who started that day were yet with the Russian army, but the others who delayed until the 10th were captured.

The Russian soldiers expected victory. They were told that the Russians were winning along the Shaho and Fushun. When the soldiers found the enemy approaching from every side, ignorant peasants, deluded with tales of Japanese atrocities, they scattered and fled like sheep, and being surrounded surrendered in squads to unarmed Japanese transport men and coolies, begging not to be massacred. Many have been hiding in the country, inside the Japanese lines, and now driven by cold and hunger are coming into the camps. Corpses of Russians and even Japanese lie unburied away from the roads where they were not noticed or were passed over by the army in its hurried advance, and no doubt numbers of numbers, who were not discovered, died from exposure.

Beginning of the Battle.

The beginning of the battle found the Japanese forces organized into five bodies. Three were along the Shaho and westward to the Hun. Nog's veterans were ready to march northward and attack Mukden. The Japanese right wing executed their part of the plan brilliantly. On the extreme east was an untried force, which had started in January from bases on the Yalu, and was to make a junction with the Japanese right wing and sweep around to the north of the Russian lines of defense. Its work was to outflank Fushun, the terminus of the Russian branch railway, and Kuroki's eastern stronghold, as Nog did Mukden.

Kuroki mistook this contingent for the Port Arthur veterans, and paid it the compliment of arraying a great body of his best organizations against it. Thus he was able to check its advance with strong entrenchments on the hills south of the town of Bagantian, fifteen miles southeast of Fushun, for several days, and prevent it from flanking the body of Linke's army along the Shaho. The Japanese armies were the same organizations, although with greatly changed personnel and altered in details, that met the Russians at Liao Yang. Two divisions of Kuroki's army were sent eastward as soon as the battle began—indeed, they were on the march before the opening of the bombardment—to co-operate with the right army. There was a break of almost twenty miles in the line between the Japanese divisions, and others at one time, and the ground was covered only by cavalry brigade and some infantry reserves. The division encountered the same experience which befell the Yalu force and the town of Shuhsan, in the mountains northeast of Witean, was its stumbling block. There was also an interval left uncovered of some miles west of Witean, between Kuroki's left and right of another army. General Kuroki kept several battalions in reserve to meet an attack at that point, but the expected attack was never delivered. Afterward it was learned that the Russian line was equally weak between that stretch of the river, and the Russians were wondering why the Japanese did not strike them there.

As the attack upon Mukden progressed one army drew away from the Shaho and the north to co-operate with the one flanking Mukden and the Japanese forces on the south had a great space to cover, but plenty of opportunity to engage the enemy. The battle on the south line was practically a deadlock until the Russians were ordered to retire for the defense of Mukden. The Japanese policy was to hold and engage the Russians along the Shaho, while their flanking armies were pushed forward.

Japanese Bombardment.

The Japanese bombardment of the Russian positions was fixed to begin on Sunday, the 26th of February. The left army was then started on their march across the Hun to Mukden, but their right army had not advanced as far as had been expected. The Japanese generals, however, were confident of victory. No army could have gone into battle with better spirits. Almost every possible preparation had been made, every man realized that the crucial stage of the entire war had arrived, and all had confidence in the leaders. On Sunday morning, General Kuroki, with his staff, which included Prince Kuni and the young Marquis Saiga, ascended a small mountain to Witean, which was one of the hills nearest the Shaho held by the Japanese, but the day was cloudy and soon after noon when only a few guns had been fired, a heavy snow-storm descended upon the hill-top and cut off the view of the river, so that the bombardment was reluctantly abandoned. This mountain held the generals' command post, and the Japanese commanders directing the fire from other hills and with the headquarters, Marshal Oyama, was storm-fused upon the rocky peak, and the link of the telephone belt sounded constantly. For three days the artillery duel continued with hardly a crack of rifle and until Wednesday there were no Japanese soldiers in sight along the lines except a few men occasionally darting from their shelter under the guns. All day the shelling continued, and the Japanese were concealed in the earth, huts and burrows on the slopes behind their trenches. The artillery fire was neither as heavy nor as continuous as that of the Russian army, but the big guns were planted. The Japanese seldom engaged their full strength. And there were few exceptions. One day, however, when the Japanese had close batteries of captured Russian guns, which nearly exhausted their ammunition before the artillery stage of the battle was finished, but when the Russians retreated the batteries went forward toward Tieling confident that they would get a new supply.

Terrible Ordeal.

During the night of Thursday and early morning of Friday the infantry began to play the leading part in the battle before Witean, and from that time until the Russians raised a white flag on Tuesday, the seventh, they successfully endured an ordeal that has few counterparts in the history of battle. Two divisions crossed the river Thursday night and drove the Russian advance line from the first trenches at the foot of the hills by one of the night attacks with bayonets which the Japanese army has successfully attempted so often during this war, contrary to the text-books. In the morning they were arrayed at the foot of the hills, which were the Russian defenses of the main line, and the day was spent fighting during the day, in which the Japanese made further advances and captured themselves along the line two miles, facing the Russian trenches, and in few places only a few yards distant. They fought little further in the next four days, but they held their line, and under difficulties which made it seem impossible.

Swept by Artillery.

Two days after the contingents of General Kuroki's left division had secured their foothold across the Shaho, the center division, which had been meeting a strong opposition beyond the bend of the river, east, in a very mountainous tract, also swung over. The plan was for them to cross when the other division did, but the Russians in front of them were too strong. Their experience was almost the same as that of the left division. They found the approaches to the Russian trenches bristling with barbed wire, and in the ordinary sense. Their contention will be that Wood was afflicted with a form of impairment causing him to have a dual personality which resulted at times in the commission of abnormal actions in innocence of any wrongful intent, and that it was while in such a condition that he killed Williams, retaining no recollection of what he had done when his other personality was dominant. His prosecution contends that Wood is sane and that his motive was robbery.

COMMITS SUICIDE ON BOARD BATTLESHIP

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, May 15.—Peter Lyell, a gunner's mate on the battleship Alabama, lying at the Brooklyn navy yard, committed suicide after going on board the vessel to-day. Lyell had been in the service for twenty-four years, and was fifty-four years old. He was given shore leave on Sunday, and when he returned to the ship to-day he was severely reprimanded by one of the officers. This seemed to depress him, and he told one of his friends that he did not think he would live long. Shortly afterward a shot was heard in the ordnance room, and Lyell was found dead on the floor, with a bullet wound in his heart from a revolver, which lay by his side. Lyell is said to have a wife and family in Bremen, Germany.

Skinner's Engagement.

Ole Skinner will appear at the Academy to-morrow, matinee and night, in his unique new footlight creation, that of the title role of "The Harvester."

This scholarly and graceful portrayal of poet and romantic roles seems, to judge from the praise all the critics have received, to be the highly successful run of the play in the metropolis, to have the best role of his stage career in this latest characterization of the French poet. The piece (an adaptation of that famous French stage masterpiece, "Le Chemineau," of Jean Richepin) affords him a splendid opportunity of running a versatile gamut from debonair comedy to fantastic humor, and from comic denunciation of the making to pathetic moments of love and emotion. "The Harvester" is a happy-go-lucky wanderer, or roamer, from harvest field to harvest field in picturesque French Canada, and symbolizes the wanderer spirit which is instinct in the universal dream of humanity.

The "drama of the fields" has been styled by the late Franciscan Sarcy, the greatest of all modern French critics, as the drama of the fields of the soul, full of the beauty of sylvan nature, with types like those simple-hearted peasant folk of the sea, glorified by Millet in his famous painting of "The Angelus."

A strikingly curious feature of the play is that in which the harvester frightens the superstitious neighbor by his gypsy magic, being luckily aided by a timely lightning storm. The scene is a remarkable blending of humorous comedy with almost Mephistophelian effects.

The cast promises notable players, including the great French actor, Paul Olay, Marion Abbott, J. M. Colville, Walter Lewis and George Clarke.

Unloads the Liver, Opens the Bowels, Relieves the Kidneys.

ALLEN'S

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The Education Movement.

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Diplomas and distinctions were presented to deserving students by Mr. John S. Munce. The following received diplomas: Senior—Elementary arithmetic, M. S. Branch; Intermediate arithmetic, E. L. Hoover; French, J. E. Walton; English grammar, Antonio F. de C. Ramos; stenography, William Francis Drummer; Junior—Rhetoric, John Walker; William Pulley; penmanship, Linwood T. Holt; John J. Grace; spelling, Watson Davis; John Davis; penmanship, John H. Davis; John H. Davis.

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BRIGHT TALKS TO YOUNG MEN

Enjoyable Reunion Held at
the Y. M. C. A.
Building.

EVENING COLLEGE CLASSES

Successful Students Receive
Diplomas and Distinctions.

The hall of the Young Men's Christian Association was a scene of much enjoyment last night.

Early in the evening the alumni of the Evening College of the Association, assembled with their friends for the annual reunion and supper. The reception was held in the parlors at 6:30, and while music by the Mandolin and Guitar Club was enjoyed the people got acquainted with each other and had a pleasant social time. At about 7 o'clock, an elegant supper was served by the woman's committee, and after the menu had been disposed of, the speaking commenced.

Mr. W. D. Duke, who made an excellent toastmaster, first introduced Mr. John Stewart Bryan, who read a paper entitled "Getting Ready." Mr. Bryan addressed himself to the young men, and with humorous passages interspersed here and there, his remarks dwelt seriously and earnestly upon the importance of proper preparation for the duties of life. The speaker's advice was to get ready to do the best that he could in whatever other respect a man might fall to accomplish his purposes, there was no reason for failure in an effort to reach the spiritual goal. It is in the power of everybody and every man to get ready for this.

The Mayor Speaks.

The next speaker was Mayor Carlton McCarthy, who responded to the toast "In the Race." After a few humorous remarks, aimed mainly at the other two speakers, the Mayor declared he had no respect for the man who enters the race simply for the pleasure of beating somebody else. The only kind of a race to run is one to which you are called by duty to your fellow man and to your God, that race which must needs end in glorious immortality with God.

A man in such a race runs well when he faithfully performs his duty day by day to man and to God and transacts his business to the good of his fellow man and for the glory of God. "I have actually come to believe that a man can serve his people and his God by running a newspaper, and I do believe in my heart a man may serve the Lord in discharging paper." These side shots at the other two speakers brought down the house. The speaker's address was directed to young men just entering the race of life was in a serious strain and was well received.

Mr. Branch Responds.

Mr. John P. Branch responded to the toast, "The Goal." He started out with the statement that most things worth accomplishing in this life can be accomplished provided you have three things: Character, health, and perseverance. On these three points the speaker dwelt and used for illustration men and events that had come under his own observation in his long business career. He portrayed the value of character in earnest words and argued that a young man has it largely in his own power to regulate his health.

The young graduates who leave the high school or the college with all the honors there conferred sometimes think he knows it all, and does not learn until it is late that he is just commencing the battle of life that he must win by perseverance or not at all. He told the story of an old Scotch-Irish merchant of Petersburg, who came from Scotland when a mere lad and brought his religion with him. He entered a store with no better job than that of sweeping out the store room at a salary of ten cents a day, but he boldly told the proprietor of his intention to make himself so useful that the concern could not do without him. He kept his word. His promotion from place to place was rapid until he became a partner and then sole proprietor, and the largest and best known merchant in Virginia.

By just that kind of perseverance all you can do may reach the goal. Using the pulling of the Lee monument from the depot to its present site by little children as an illustration, the speaker declared that the boys of the Young Men's Christian Association can in time, by this pulling in the right direction, move the towers and all the surrounding country for the better. Mr. Branch was cheered heartily when he said that the Young Men's Christian Association had our own present quarters and that they must and will have a new and larger building. The speeches were interspersed with music.

The Commencement.

At the conclusion of the speaking the company was invited to the association hall to attend the commencement exercises of the Evening College. The attendance upon these exercises was not as large as it would have been but for the rain storm that came just at the time for the exercises to be held.

Dr. O. A. Hawkins presided and Dr. W. R. L. Smith offered prayer. From the book of Mr. E. Newman, chairman of the Educational Committee, which was read, it appears that the enrollment for the session just closed was 129. This is an increase over the previous term of fifty per cent. The report takes note of great improvement along all lines of the work, and speaks enthusiastically of the wholesome influence exerted over the school by the Young Men's Christian Association. Heed by the instructors, all of whom are Christian men.

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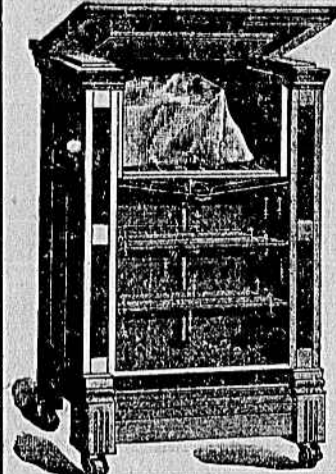
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3 Rooms
Furnished
Complete. \$75
Parlor, Bed-Room,
Dining-Room.

4 Rooms
Furnished
Complete. \$90
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Mattings.

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